

Weekly Compilation of  
**Presidential  
Documents**



Monday, January 3, 2000  
Volume 35—Number 52  
Pages 2669–2680

## Contents

### Addresses and Remarks

Radio address—2669

### Communications to Congress

Venezuela-U.S. tax convention, letter reporting—2678

### Communications to Federal Agencies

Venezuela, memorandum on providing disaster assistance—2669

### Interviews With the News Media

Interview with Charlie Rose of CBS’ “60 Minutes II”—2670

### Letters and Messages

Millennium, message—2678

### Statements by the President

Housing vouchers, fiscal year 2001—2678

Prescription drug Internet sites harmful to patient safety and health, zero tolerance—2677

Venezuela, disaster assistance—2669

### Supplementary Materials

Acts approved by the President—2680

Checklist of White House press releases—2680

Digest of other White House announcements—2679

Nominations submitted to the Senate—2679

**Editor’s Note:** In order to meet publication and distribution deadlines during the New Year’s holiday weekend, the cutoff time for this issue has been advanced to 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 30, 1999. Documents released after that time will appear in the next issue.

## WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

## PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* is published pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act (49 Stat. 500, as amended; 44 U.S.C. Ch. 15), under

regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (37 FR 23607; 1 CFR Part 10).

Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* will be furnished by mail to domestic subscribers for \$80.00 per year (\$137.00 for mailing first class) and to foreign subscribers for \$93.75 per year, payable to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. The charge for a single copy is \$3.00 (\$3.75 for foreign mailing).

There are no restrictions on the republication of material appearing in the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

Week Ending Friday, December 31, 1999

**Statement on Providing Disaster Assistance to Venezuela**

*December 23, 1999*

Today I authorized a \$20 million draw-down of emergency disaster assistance to support relief operations in Venezuela. This assistance, to be drawn from existing Department of Defense inventories, will augment the \$5.5 million we have already committed to Venezuela. These funds will support continued search and rescue operations by U.S. military helicopters now on the scene, airlift of food, shelter, and medicines, water purification systems, and other critical needs.

As I told President Chavez when I spoke to him by telephone on Tuesday, we are deeply saddened by the loss of life and devastation that has taken place in Venezuela. The heroic response of the Venezuelan people to this calamity has left a profound impression on all of us. Through the efforts of our military and USAID, we will continue to do everything possible to help the people of Venezuela. Providing this assistance is not only the right thing to do; it also promotes our interest in ensuring stability in a nation that is a key partner in the hemisphere.

At this holiday season, the people of Venezuela are in our thoughts and prayers.

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**Memorandum on Providing Disaster Assistance to Venezuela**

*December 23, 1999*

Presidential Determination No. 2000-09

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense*

*Subject:* Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, to Provide Emergency Disaster Relief Assistance to Venezuela

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2) ("the Act"), I hereby determine that it is in the national interest of the United States to draw down articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense, for the purpose of providing international disaster relief assistance to Venezuela.

I therefore direct the drawdown of up to \$20 million of articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense for the Government of Venezuela for the purposes and under the authorities of chapter 9 of part I of the Act.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress immediately and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

**The President's Radio Address**

*December 25, 1999*

Good morning. Hillary, Chelsea, and I join millions of American families celebrating Christmas today. For Americans of many faiths, this is a season of renewal, of light

returned from darkness, and despair transformed to hope. And as the year ends, and this millennium draws to a close, we all have a chance and a responsibility to reflect on our lives and rejoice in our blessings.

On this holiday morning, I know many of us are thankful for the love of family and friends and the richness of the world around us. We're grateful for the advances in science and medicine that are letting us live longer, healthier lives. We enjoy freedom and prosperity at home and peace with our neighbors. And we are privileged to be a leader for peace and liberty around the world, from Bosnia to Kosovo to Northern Ireland and the Middle East. And we're very thankful for the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, especially those who can't be with their families as they stand on the frontlines of freedom far from home.

Most of all, we're blessed by the millions of Americans who take time out from the holiday season, and all year round, to remember those in need, those who are sick, those who are troubled. In the spirit of the season, Americans are reaching out to victims of disaster, like our neighbors in Venezuela, where floods and landslides have killed thousands and left tens of thousands homeless this Christmas. I'm proud that the United States is leading the international relief effort there and that so many Americans are donating food, clothes, and medicine for the survivors.

Here at home, we're reaching out to the poorest among us, to those who do not yet share in America's growing prosperity. We're making new efforts to reach out to the homeless, to help them find housing, medical care, and jobs. Today I am glad to announce that we will be providing nearly \$1 billion in new Federal grants for housing and social services to help the homeless in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Those grants will fund proven, successful programs that help homeless families, veterans, and children, and people looking for work. They are a Christmas gift all of us can all be proud of.

I want to end my talk today with a Christmas story. A few days ago, I helped prepare holiday meals at the D.C. Central Kitchen, a community kitchen that prepares 3,000 meals a day for the homeless and hungry and

trains people to work in food services, to hold down jobs, to turn their lives around.

I worked with a man named Steve Pritchett. As a young man, Steve had a scholarship for college, and his future looked bright. But he made some mistakes, and as a result, he's been homeless for much of his adult life. At Christmastime, he might go see his mother for a day, but if it was cold, you'd most likely find Steve spending Christmas under a bus shelter or beside a steam grate.

But this year, Steve found the D.C. Central Kitchen and discovered it's never too late to change. He's been in their training program for 2 months now, and already he's been offered a job. He's clean and off the streets. Best of all, his mother—who never gave up on her son—is so proud. She told him, "Steve, you don't have to be a doctor or a lawyer. I just want to know that when I close my eyes, you'll be able to stand on your own two feet." They're together today celebrating Christmas.

D.C. Central Kitchen had the help of 5,000 volunteers this year; each one of them deserves a little credit for the success of Steve and so many others like him. That's America at its best—when neighbor helps to lift up neighbor, and together we shine a light in the darkness. That is also the true spirit of Christmas.

So let us all resolve to take this spirit with us into the new millennium. We'll be better people and a stronger nation for doing so.

Happy holidays, and thanks for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 5:43 p.m. on December 23 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on December 25. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast.

### **Interview With Charlie Rose of CBS' "60 Minutes II"**

*December 22, 1999*

### **Terrorism During Millennium Celebrations**

**Mr. Rose.** Mr. President, because of the recent arrest and heightened security concerns at airports, do you expect, worry, that

there will be an incident of terrorism before the first of the year?

**The President.** Well, we are on a heightened state of alert, and we're doing a lot of work on this. But I would say to the American people, they should go on about their business and celebrate the holidays as they would, but they should be aware. You know, this whole millennial idea draws out a lot of people who are maybe, by our standards, deranged, and other people maybe want to use it for their own political ends. So if people see anything suspicious, they should report it to the authorities as quickly as possible. But otherwise, I should say, they should go on about their business. We're working very, very hard on this.

**Mr. Rose.** It worries you?

**The President.** No, I'm concerned, but I think we have, I think, the best law enforcement folks we could have, and they are working very hard. And we're doing quite well so far. So I have every hope that we'll get through it. But I think that what I would ask the American people to do is not to stay at home and hide but just to keep their eyes open. If they see something that looks fishy, tell the authorities and we'll get on it. But they should know that we're working this very hard.

#### **Last Year of President's Term**

**Mr. Rose.** All right, let me—I look around this office, and I see a desk over there that President Kennedy sat at. And I remember the story he said about the Presidency, and one of the great things about the Presidency was he could walk to work. As you think about leaving this building, what will you miss the most?

**The President.** I think what I'll miss the most is the work, the job, the contact with all kinds of people and all kinds of issues, the ability to make a difference, to solve problems, to open up opportunities for other people. There's almost no—not almost, I suppose there is no job like it in the world. It's been an unbelievable thrill and a profound honor, and I will miss it very much.

I'll miss a lot of the other things. I love living in the White House. Hillary, I suppose, has done more work on the White House than anybody since the Truman administra-

tion, redoing rooms and building a sculpture garden and doing things like that. And we love living here. I love going to Camp David; I love Air Force One; I love all of the perks of the job. But the thing I love most is being President, doing the job every day. It just—to me, it's an almost indescribable honor. I would never grow tired of it, and I feel graced every day.

#### **Term Limits**

**Mr. Rose.** If you could change the 22d amendment, would you?

**The President.** I don't know. It's probably not fair to ask. On balance, I think the two-term tradition has served us well. I'm glad President Roosevelt served the third term, because of the war. But on balance, I think it's served us well.

Now, you know, I'm young, and I'm strong, and I'm, as far I know, in good health. I love the job. And so if I could serve again, I probably would. But I think that's the reason we have this limit, so that people like me don't get to make that decision. [Laughter]

**Mr. Rose.** Are you going to leave a note in that desk over there for your successor, and what will you say?

**The President.** I will, and I don't know what I'll say. But probably most of what I'll say will be predictable. I'll be wishing my successor well and talking a little bit about the job and offering to be available if I can ever be of any help.

#### **National Economy**

**Mr. Rose.** Prosperity. Economic prosperity and growth has been a hallmark of this Presidency. How long can it last, and will it be a part of our future, our near future?

**The President.** Well, it certainly will be part of our future. Now how long it will last—the truth is no one knows. I believed when I got here that there was a chance that we could have a very long period of economic growth. Now I couldn't have known, when we started and we started slashing the deficit and investing more in technology, that we would have the longest economic expansion in history that would even outstrip wartime when we had been fully mobilized. And in February we will.

But I think that there are some fundamentally different things now. If the Government can follow good policies and the Federal Reserve will follow smart policies, there is this enormous power of productivity we're getting out of the revolution in technology and information technology. It's just now working its way into every sector of the economy, and it's also continually advancing itself. So I think if we can keep that going and if we can keep our markets open, that's very important, not just the exports we sell but the imports we buy, the open market keeps the American economy highly competitive and tends to keep inflation down. And I think that's one of the things that's been under appreciated about this. I never will forget, back in '94 I got really alarmed when lumber prices went way up in a hurry, and I thought homebuilding prices were going to explode. And then all of a sudden, we had this big infusion of less costly imports.

Now we have to work on fair trade rules; we've got to have—we can't be taken advantage of, as some tried to during the Asian financial crisis, but on balance, these open markets are very good for us. They give us growth and competition, keeps inflation down. And I think that's very good.

### ***Globalization and the Technology Gap***

**Mr. Rose.** What we want to do here in this conversation is really focus on the future. You've done a number of conversations about this century and your term in office. Thinking about the future and the economic health of the country, there is also this process. In 10 years—10 years ago the wall came down; 5 years ago the web went up. Globalization is part of our life.

**The President.** It is.

**Mr. Rose.** Some worry—and Seattle might be an indication that we're looking at the possibility of a great gap between a two-tier system, between the haves and the have-nots of the world, those who get it with technology and those that don't.

**The President.** Well, first of all, the worry is well-founded, but it's a constant. That is, we have had a great gap in opportunity, even though it's sometimes closed and sometimes open, but there has been a huge gap between the haves and have-nots since the dawn of

the industrial revolution and the creation of middle class societies with mass wealth. Some have had it, and others have not ever created it.

There is a chance that what will happen now is that it will become more pronounced across countries and within countries because of the advantages that technology-literate people and entrepreneurs with access to money will have in a rapidly changing world. That is, it's liable to accelerate.

But I would remind you that in the United States we had an increasing gap between the rich and the poor for about 20 years, as we moved into this new economic phase. The same thing happened when we changed from being an agricultural economy to an industrial economy. In the last 2 or 3 years, we started to see the gap close again. And the answer is not to run away from globalization. The answer is to make change our friend. The answer is to have broad access to information and information technology, to have broad-based systems of education and health care and family supports in every country, and to continue to try to shape the global economy.

You mentioned Seattle. I think that you had a lot of people out there protesting globalization, but they can't reverse it, and it's done a lot more good than bad. It's created, over the last 50 years, as the world had become more interconnected, we've moved away from the specter of war as holocaust, even though there have been a lot of smaller wars, and we've seen millions—hundreds of millions of people lifted into the middle class. So the answer is how to make this globalization more human, more humane, and how to shape it so that everybody has a chance to be a part of it.

### ***Response to American Hegemony***

**Mr. Rose.** Do you hear around the world now, as I'm sure you've heard from heads of state and others, this kind of unilateralist—America in the future is too strong, too dominant, and the fear of a backlash against us.

**The President.** I agree with that. And I think—I've tried to be very sensitive to that—I think we have—and to make sure that we fulfilled our responsibilities. I think that, on the one hand, people are glad that

we won the cold war, if you will; they're glad that the forces of freedom won. All over the world people are embracing democracy and market economics. But if you enjoy the level of military and economic strength we have and the level of political influence, people are going to resent you.

And I must say—and again, I don't mean to be partisan here, but I think the resentment is deeper when the Congress takes as long as they did to pay our U.N. dues and puts the conditions on it they did, when we don't ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, when we basically preach to other people around the world, you ought to do this, that, or the other thing. But instead of helping them, we continue to have a very large military budget, but we spend the smallest percentage of our income on assistance to other countries to help them succeed economically and politically of any advanced country in the world. So we do some things that breed this resentment.

Now, a lot of them resented me at Seattle because they think that when the United States says we ought to have core labor standards and we ought to have good environmental standards in a world trading system, that I'm trying to keep poor countries down, that I just want them to open their markets to us, but they won't get rich because I'm going to try to force them to give up their comparative wage advantage or their ability to grow. That's not true. So some of the resentments against America are not fair. But it's all perfectly understandable. I mean, look how fortunate we are compared to most other countries. and when people get in a tight spot, they want us to come help—Bosnia, Kosovo, the Middle East, you name it.

### **Prospects for the 21st Century**

**Mr. Rose.** Do you think this century coming up will be America's century, as the 20th century has been described?

**The President.** Well, I think it can be. But I think we have to think very carefully about how we want to define that. I mean, look what we know will happen. We know that, barring some completely unforeseen event, China, and sometime thereafter, India, will have economies that look bigger than ours, because they've got so many more

people than we do—4 times as many people—in the case of China, even more. We know that Europe will grow more integrated, I think, in the 21st century. And the European Union will be more and more a union. And they have 50 percent more people than we do, and they could have a lot more than that if they continue to bring in other countries.

So I do not believe that we will have the relative economic dominance we have today. We've got about 4 percent of the world's people and almost 22 percent of the world's income. But I think we can be still very prosperous. I think we can still be the strongest individual country in the world in many ways. But I think we will have to build partnerships with some of those who resent us now. We will have to have an increasingly interdependent world. Because, whether we like it or not—it's like globalization, interdependence is another word for globalization—we will become more interdependent, and we'll have to learn to be adroit at that. We won't be able to just say, "Well, if we like it, we're here, and if we don't, we'll walk away." We'll have to really work on our partnership skills.

### **Future Allies**

**Mr. Rose.** You touched on something that I've thought about. This century was marked by our friends becoming our enemies—France and Germany—our enemies becoming our friends. Is that going to be part of the 21st century, people we now look on as rivals become friends, friends become—

**The President.** I think it is highly likely that some of the people that have been our most recent rivals will be our friends.

**Mr. Rose.** Like?

**The President.** Well, I know a lot of people are very skeptical about Russia now, because of the problems they've had. But they just had a genuinely democratic election with a lot of debate, vigorous opposition, brutal campaign ads, you know, the whole 9 yards.

**Mr. Rose.** Did the results surprise you?

**The President.** No. It's about what I thought they'd be. You know, still only 25 percent of them are voting for the old Communist Party; the rest of them are for something else, in spite of the economic hardship that they have faced in the last few years.

So I still think there's a chance that if the leaders of Russia define their national greatness in 21st century terms—that is, in terms of their ability to unleash the creative capacity of their people, rather than their ability to dominate their neighbors, which was their 19th and 20th century definition of greatness—that they well be—we'll have a real partnership there. It's also possible that we'll have one with China.

**Mr. Rose.** A partnership?

**The President.** Absolutely. It just depends on how they view us and their own self-interest.

#### **Future Rivals**

**Mr. Rose.** Do you see, on the other hand, people who we might consider friends, like Western Europe, becoming more rivals because—

**The President.** I think the only way that would happen is if it were provoked by greater protectionism, economic protectionism outside the borders of Europe. That is, Europe could get so big, and they could integrate the economy of Europe, and they'll have a lot of poor countries coming in—just like we have poor States and poor regions. If they close their economy, rather than open it, that could be a difficult thing. But I think it's far more likely that our former enemies will become at least friendlier, if we're not friends, and that all of us together will face the enemies of the nation-state in the 21st century.

**Mr. Rose.** The enemies of the nation-state?

**The President.** Yes. The organized enemies of the nation-state that have vast money and vast access to weapons and technology and travel: the organized crime syndicates; the narcotraffickers; the terrorists. And I think the likelihood that all these people will be integrated—there may be some rogue states that will support them, but I think you're more likely to see the nation-states trying to uphold stability in their national lives, increasingly open and democratic. Even China, I think, will become more open and more democratic. They're already electing mayors in a million little towns, literally.

**Mr. Rose.** In democratic elections?

**The President.** Yes. And so I think—by their standards. They don't have a Republican or a Democratic Party like we do, but they are having these elections. I think in the future the likelihood is that nation-states will be allied against the enemies of the organized society and the open society.

#### **Chemical and Biological Threats**

**Mr. Rose.** Do you expect in the next 10, 20 years to be a terrorist attack in the United States, thinking about the recent events, thinking about the potential for germ warfare, the potential for biological attacks, and the potential—

**The President.** Oh, absolutely. I think that's a threat.

**Mr. Rose.** A likelihood?

**The President.** Well, I think it's highly likely that someone will try. And keep in mind, the World Trade Center was blown up just a few years ago. We were fortunate to catch the people who did it. Oklahoma City had the terrible explosion.

What I think will happen—let me back up a minute. I have done everything I could as President to try to organize the permanent Government, the people who will be here when I am gone, and the Congress to deal with the long-term threat of biological, chemical, and small scale nuclear war, as well as the increasing sophistication of traditional weapons. And we are doing a massive amount of work now in preparation to try to minimize the chances that it will occur and—God forbid if it should occur—to try to minimize the impact of it. I think, parenthetically, one of the benefits of our research into the human genome is that we'll be able to analyze these viruses much more quickly and come up with antidotes much more quickly than we used to be able to. Even now, when new strains of diseases—whether it's AIDS or anything else—comes up, we can identify them so much more quickly than we used to be able to.

So what I think will happen—let me just make this point—the organized forces of destruction will take maximum advantage of new technologies and new scientific developments just like democratic societies do. So I think, just like the computers are all being miniaturized and people carry these little



pads around that have—and now you've got these gadgets where you can use as a telephone or a typewriter, do E-mail and all that. Well, the same miniaturization will apply to biological and chemical weapons. And if people should get nuclear materials that can be made into a bomb, to nuclear materials—which is why we've worked so hard with Russia to control access to that stuff.

So we've just got to be ready. There will always be bad guys out there in the world who will try to take advantage of people's vulnerabilities.

**Mr. Rose.** But aren't the odds against us, when you describe that kind of technological advantage—I mean, and just recently two people trying—in separate cases—trying to get inside America's borders with explosives—it gets more and more easier to conceal, and more and more the likelihood that an American city—

**The President.** Well, if you go back through all of human history and you look at conflicts in weapons systems—and that's what we're talking about, biological, chemical weapons—offense always precedes defense; that is, you've got to know what you're defending against.

So my goal in this whole thing, trying to mobilize the country on biological, chemical weapons, and make sure the Government is doing everything possible, is to close the gap between offense and defense. And the answer to your question is, we won't be severely—there might be incidences. I mean, the World Trade Center was blown up; Oklahoma City was blown up. We've got a guy in the laboratory in the Middle West, almost 5 years ago, who was trying to develop biological agents, political extremist.

**Mr. Rose.** And there are scary ideas coming out of science, where viruses can attack certain ethnic groups?

**The President.** Yes, there are people that—

**Mr. Rose.** The potential of science to do harm is alarming.

**The President.** But you know, it's always been that way. I mean, it's always been that way. And I think that I'm actually more optimistic than—keep in mind, no one believes that someone's going to come in and kill everybody in America. That's what we worried

about during the cold war. And we still have to deal with these traditional threats. That's why India and Pakistan is perhaps—the Kashmiri issue is perhaps the most dangerous one in the world today because you've got two nuclear powers there who are somewhat uncertain about one another and why we have to work hard to avoid that.

But yes, there will be problems. Yes, there could be terrible incidences. But I would say to the American people, they should, on balance, be hopeful. But what they should do is to support the leadership of this country in putting maximum resources into research and development so that we're prepared. And I think we will grow increasingly sophisticated in picking these people up, increasingly sophisticated in detecting these weapons, and what we can't afford is to have a long period of time where these offensive capabilities of the new age are better than the defensive capabilities. If we can close the gap between offense and defense, we'll be fine.

**Mr. Rose.** What's interesting about a conversation about the future with you is that because of this office and your curiosity, you see and know more than almost anyone. I mean, you are aware because you talk to the scientists; you talk to people responsible.

**The President.** I think about it a lot.

**Mr. Rose.** You do?

**The President.** Sure. I have to. See, I think one of the jobs of the President, because of the unique opportunity of the office you just described it, is to always be thinking about what will happen 10, 20, 30 years from now, and to allocate some time and effort to make decisions for which there will be almost no notice.

You know, right now, I mean, hardly anybody reports on or thinks about the work we're doing in biological warfare or chemical warfare—the speech I gave at the National Science Foundation—but it's fine. It's what my former national security aide, Tony Lake, used to call “the dog that doesn't bark.” And there is a sense in which there's a bunch of dogs in this old world you don't want to bark.

**Mr. Rose.** It's the old notion about if the tree falls in the forest and nobody hears it, did the tree fall? Can you—are there things that we don't know about that alarm you? This sense of science and where it's at and

what's coming down the pike that gives you great pause?

**The President.** Well, there are a lot of things that concern me. You know, we've done a lot of work—the other thing that, besides the chemical and biological weapons, trying to protect computer systems.

#### **Year 2000 Problems**

**Mr. Rose.** Speak to Y2K. Where are your concerns, and do you think that most of those—

**The President.** My concerns—well, they're much more traditional in Y2K. I think we've done a good job here. We've spent a lot of money—I say we, the American people, not just the Government, the private sector—we've spent a lot of money, tried to be ready. I feel a high level of confidence. It wouldn't bother me a bit to get on a commercial airline, for example, on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day and fly around. I think our systems are in order here.

My concerns really are for some of our friends around the world that have more rudimentary computer networks and capacities and whether they will have a shutdown that they won't be able to immediately fix or get around.

**Mr. Rose.** And make them vulnerable to what?

**The President.** Well, if there were problems in the financial system, what if records disappeared and people lost money? That would be destabilizing in some countries. If power systems—

**Mr. Rose.** And make them vulnerable to outside forces, to kinds of elements you mentioned earlier?

**The President.** Well, maybe, but I think more internal destabilization. What if a power system shuts down in a big country with a hard winter? How long will it take to get back up before anyone would freeze to death? I mean, these are the kinds of practical problems that I'm concerned about.

But I think that—I'm talking about something far more insidious, though. What we have to—this is, again, offense and defense. What we have to do—this technology of computers is changing so fast, and we've got a lot of whizbangs out there, and they can make a ton of money working for bad guys.

So what we've got to do is to continuously work on protecting the cyber security, the infrastructure of the information economy, just like we're trying to deal with chemical and biological warfare and the miniaturization of weapons and all this.

But most people are good people. We've got plenty of talented people. We just need to be imagining the future, thinking about all the problems as well as all the opportunities, and then prepare. Society always has problems; there are always misfortunes. But basically, I believe the future is quite promising and far more exciting than any period in history. I wish I were going to live to be 150; I'd love to see what happens.

#### **Possibilities of the Future**

**Mr. Rose.** Would you like to be cloned?

**The President.** No. I wouldn't wish that on anybody. [Laughter]

**Mr. Rose.** There is this thing, too. I mean, think about Chelsea's children, your grandchildren, say the year 2050, whatever the appropriate time might be. What's this world going to look like? Is it going to be more interesting, more challenging? How will we travel; what kind of food will we eat; will we go to other planets?

**The President.** I think we'll be eating food that's like what we eat now. I think it will be safer. I think we'll know a lot more about it, even safer than it is now. I think that in big, urban areas, I think we'll still have our love affairs with cars. I think they will be much more safe. They'll be made of composite materials that are much more resistant to wrecks. And I think where there is a lot of heavy traffic, I think that we'll all travel by a computerized plan.

I also think there will be a lot more rapid rail transit. I think it will be safer. It'll be better, and I think we'll be able to do things while we travel and spend more time. I think we will go into outer space, and at sometime in the next century, I think there will be large, permanent platforms sustaining life in outer space that will basically be jumping-off places to distant planets and maybe even beyond. That's what I think will happen.

**Q.** Hold on one second. I know you've got to change tape. Okay.

**Mr. Rose.** You said computerized plan——

**The President.** No, I meant cars. You want me to say it again?

**Mr. Rose.** How much time do we have?

**The President.** I just misspoke myself.

**Mr. Rose.** How much time do we have here?

**The President.** I don't know, 10 minutes, 5 minutes?

You want to do that again?

**Mr. Rose.** The last question? All right. Okay.

Think about the future of your grandchildren, Chelsea's children, the year 2050. What will life be like then? What kind of food; what kind of transportation; will we be living on other planets? Will we still be concerned about things that concern us now, like overweight, stuff like that?

**The President.** I don't think all of the problems will go away. I think the food will be pretty much like it is now, but even safer. I think that on Earth, we'll travel in automobiles, still, but in traffic jams, we'll have automated systems. I think there will be a lot more high speed rail. I think we'll travel in ways that give us more free time to do things while we travel.

I think that there will be large platforms in outer space that will be jumping-off places to distant planets, and I think that the biomedical advances will be stunning. I think a lot of cancers will be cured. I think there will be a vaccine for AIDS. I think that the research in the human gene and the revolution, the continuing revolution in microchips will enable people to probably cure spinal cord injuries by having a programmed chip that goes into the spine and replicates all the nerves that were damaged.

I think that it'll be a fascinating time. And I think there will be lots and lots of continuous daily communication with people across national and cultural lines.

**Mr. Rose.** Would you go to space if you had the opportunity?

**The President.** I might. I'm real interested in it. I like it a lot. I think it's important.

#### **Post-Presidential Plans**

**Mr. Rose.** What one thing do you most want to accomplish—I've got to go—when

you leave this office? What's the single most important thing for you to accomplish when you leave?

**The President.** You mean, after I'm not President anymore?

**Mr. Rose.** After you're not President.

**The President.** I think the most important thing is for me to be a useful citizen of this country and of this world, because I've had opportunities here only my other living predecessors have had. And I think that for me to be able to continue the work I've done in racial and religious and ethnic reconciliation and trying to convince people that we can grow the global economy and still preserve the environment and trying to empower the poor and the dispossessed, in trying to spread the universal impact of education and use technology to benefit ordinary people, these kinds of things—I think I should continue to do this work and trying—I want to get young people into public service. I want them to believe this is noble and important work.

So I think, in a word, I have to be a good citizen now. That's the most important thing I can do when I leave office is to use the maximum—to the maximum extent I can, the knowledge that I have, the experience that I've gained to be a really good citizen.

**Mr. Rose.** Thank you, Mr. President.

**The President.** Thank you.

NOTE: The interview was videotaped at 5:10 p.m. on December 22 in the Oval Office for later broadcast, and the transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 28. A portion of this interview could not be verified because the tape was incomplete. The text of this interview follows the transcript as released by the Office of the Press Secretary.

### **Statement Announcing Zero Tolerance for Prescription Drug Internet Sites Harmful to Patient Safety and Health**

*December 28, 1999*

Prescription drug sites on the Internet have given consumers new options to obtain needed medications, sometimes at a more affordable price. This industry is in its infancy, however, and rogue operators pose a threat

to the health of Americans. Today we are unveiling a proposal that sends a signal that we have zero tolerance for prescription drug Internet sites that ignore Federal and State laws and harm patient safety and health. Dispensing medications through the Internet without prescriptions or licenses must stop.

### **Statement on Fiscal Year 2001 Housing Vouchers**

*December 29, 1999*

I am pleased to announce that my budget for FY 2001 will include \$690 million for 120,000 new housing vouchers to help America's hard-pressed working families. These housing vouchers subsidize the rents of low income Americans, helping them to move closer to job opportunities. Housing vouchers are a critical part of my administration's efforts to reform welfare, reward work, support working families, and provide affordable housing for low income families.

In today's booming economy, about two-thirds of new jobs are being created in the suburbs—far from where many low income families live. These new housing vouchers will enable families to move closer to a new job, reduce a long commute, or secure more stable housing that will help them get or keep a job. We should use 32,000 of the 120,000 new housing vouchers to help families moving from welfare to work and to use 18,000 vouchers to help homeless individuals and families secure permanent housing.

Last year we worked with Congress to secure 50,000 housing vouchers, the first in 4 years. This November we fought hard to provide 60,000 additional vouchers for hard-pressed working families in the final FY 2000 budget agreement—after having been eliminated by both the House and Senate bills. As we work on the next budget, I urge Congress to join me in a bipartisan effort to fund new housing vouchers that will make housing more affordable for more working Americans.

### **Letter to the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Reporting on a Declaration of the Venezuela-United States Tax Convention**

*December 29, 1999*

*Dear Mr. Chairman:*

In accordance with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Venezuela for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital, together with a Protocol, adopted by the Senate of the United States on November 5, 1999, I hereby certify that:

In connection with Declaration (1), New Venezuelan Tax Law:

- (i) the new Venezuelan tax law has been enacted in accordance with Venezuelan law;
- (ii) the Department of Treasury, in consultation with the Department of State, has thoroughly examined the new Venezuelan tax law; and
- (iii) the new Venezuelan tax law is fully consistent with and appropriate to the obligations under the Convention.

Sincerely,

**William J. Clinton**

NOTE: The letter was sent to Jesse Helms, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on December 30.

### **Message on the Observance of a New Millennium**

*December 30, 1999*

Warm greetings to all Americans as we welcome a new century and a new millennium. This rare moment in our history is a time for hope and reflection, a time to recognize both the challenges and the opportunities that will face us in the coming years.

We have much to celebrate on this wonderful occasion and many reasons to be

proud. Today we are enjoying the longest sustained period of economic growth in our nation's history, offering greater opportunities for every American. We can be rightfully proud, too, that the history of our democracy, with its widening circle of human freedom, still inspires the world and that America continues to serve as a leader in promoting peace and human rights across the globe.

Even as we celebrate our successes, however, we must also acknowledge that we face many challenges in the century ahead. While we are making great strides toward achieving full equality and justice for all Americans, we must ensure that in the coming century all our people live in One America—an America where we are not separated from one another by prejudice, by economic injustice, or by a digital divide.

We must have the vision to use new technology to improve our schools and stir the creativity of our young people; and we must ensure that every school and every child has access to the treasury of electronic resources that lies just beyond our keyboards and computer screens. We must continue our efforts to find cures for the diseases that still afflict us and that ravage many parts of the developing world. And we must put new resources at the disposal of our artists, scholars, and scientists to help them make new discoveries, preserve our historic legacy, and light tomorrow with the fire of their imaginations.

The theme for our national millennial celebration is "Honor the Past—Imagine the Future." By resolving at this moment to make a lasting difference in the lives of others, both in our communities and around the world, we will keep faith with our great past and ensure that America's future will reflect our fundamental ideals of freedom and opportunity for all.

Best wishes for an unforgettable celebration.

**Bill Clinton**

---

## **Digest of Other White House Announcements**

---

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

---

### **December 27**

The White House announced that the President will visit Davos, Switzerland, on January 29, 2000, to attend the World Economic Forum.

### **December 28**

The President announced his intention to recess appoint Frank S. Holleman III as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education.

### **December 31**

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the opening ceremony of the "America's Millennium" celebration on 12th St. and Constitution Ave.

In the afternoon, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the "Millennium Around the World" celebration at the International Trade Center.

In the evening, the President and Hillary Clinton attended the "America's Millennium" celebration at the Lincoln Memorial.

---

## **Nominations Submitted to the Senate**

---

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

---

**Checklist  
of White House Press Releases**

---

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

---

***Released December 27***

Statement by the Press Secretary: President Clinton's Visit to World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland

***Released December 28***

Announcement: The Clinton Administration Unveils New Initiative To Protect Consumers Buying Prescription Drug Products Over the Internet

---

**Acts Approved  
by the President**

---

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.